

Alexandria Community Policy and Management Team

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FY09 ACPMT Annual Report Summary

The Alexandria Community Policy Management Team (ACPMT) consists of representatives from City Council, the City Manager, the Alexandria City Public Schools, the Division of Social Services, Court Service Unit, Health Department, the Community Services Board, plus a representative from the Northern Virginia Private Providers Association. The ACPMT oversees the expenditure of funds that implement the mandates of the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA). Services are provided under the CSA for at-risk children in or possibly needing foster care and children requiring special education services through individual education plans (IEPs).

The ACPMT focused in FY09 on making sure every child has a permanent home, nurturing the strengths of our children and their families, and creating innovative community-based partnerships to address the challenges facing the City of Alexandria's at-risk children and families. State and legislative initiatives and priorities, as well as challenging fiscal times, demanded that services support permanency planning, be individualized, be child and family-centered, and be delivered whenever possible in our community. The ACPMT embarked upon an internal transformation to position ourselves to better meet these needs, developing a family centered policy focusing our resources on the delivery of flexible, individualized services in our community. To this end, the ACPMT developed a CSA Service Improvement and Cost Containment Strategy in November 2008. The ACPMT took a bold and immediate move to transform its policies and procedures to support the ambitious goals of:

1. Bringing our children home;
2. Preventing our children from leaving the community;
3. Strengthening existing, and developing new, community resources; and
4. Maintaining services within our budgeted allocation.

In response to these goals, the ACPMT developed objectives for implementing cost containment measures and created quality indicators and monitoring timelines. Results included:

1. A 69% cumulative decrease in residential and group home placements in FY09. 97% of those discharged maintained their placement setting. 80% had no criminal activity. 88% did not run away. None were hospitalized.
2. A \$764,379 decrease in expenditures for DSS residential/therapeutic foster care through the third quarter FY09 compared to FY08;
3. Local cost decreased from 53% in FY08 to 49% in FY09, with a projected savings of \$264,188.25;
4. Increased shift to community based services;
5. Meetings with all contracted Therapeutic Foster Care and Home Based providers to discuss cost containment strategies, innovative treatment services, timelines, and moving children to the lowest level of care.
6. Implementation of Alexandria's System of Care wraparound service for all children at risk of, or coming out of, residential placement.